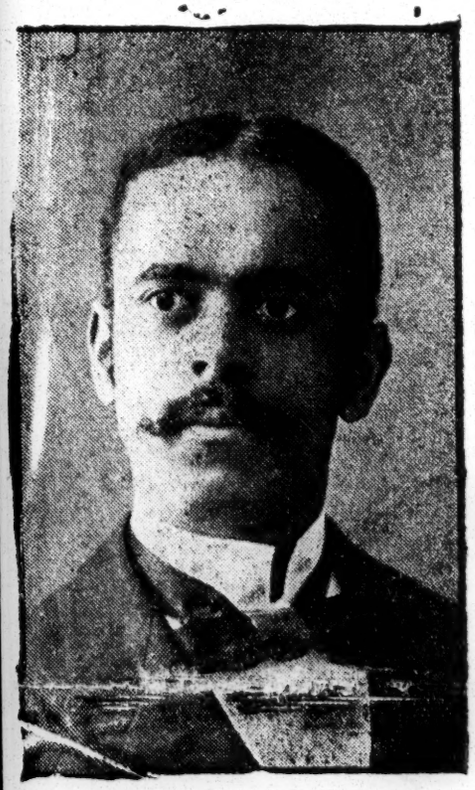
Lawyers—1919.

COLORED ATTORNEY DEFENDS ROXBURY JUDGE

The Chicago Defender 1-25-19

Mr. Edgar P. Benjamin, a very powerful attorney who has made and is still making a wonderful success before the Bar of Massachusetts. He has been Mr. Wm. M. Trotter's legal advisor throughout his public career, and among the officials of The Equal Rights League it is often said that Mr. E. P. Benjamin is one of the best lawyers in this city. Since he has been secured to defend Hon. Albert F. Hayden, Judge and Maurice J. O'Connell, Esq., clerk of the Roxbury Court who were indicted lately in Roxbury roit justifies the above statement.

Mr. Benjamin was edcuated in Boston University Law School. His career is a credit to that institution and all the more to the race. Above all he is a strong supporter of the Guardian.



E. P. BENJAMIN, ESQ.

TO THE RACE MEMBERS OF THE BAR:

The Kansas City Call 8-23-19

You are cordially invited and earnestly urged to be present at the tenth annual session of the **National Negro Bar Association** to be held at St. Louis August 13th-15th inclusively.

Because of the central location of this city we are hoping to have a record-breaking attendance.

There was never a time when the sober, conservative and united thought of our race attorneys was more needed.

The reconstruction period calls for the best thought of all races to the end that there may be a readjustment that will be equitable, just and lasting to all.

All who contemplate attending will kindly notify us at the earliest possible moment.

This the 23rd day of June, 1919.

Signed.

PERRY W. HOWARD,
President.

S. D. McGILL,
Secretary

William H. Harrison
Corresponding Sec.

WHEELING W. V. INTEL'GEN'CR
JUNE 6, 1919

NEGRO BAR ASSOC. MEETS SATURDAY

A meeting of the West Virginia Negro Bar Association will be held at Huntington Saturday. The officers of the association are: J. M. Ellis, of Fayette county, president; and T. Edward Hill, of McDowell county, secretary. There are about forty-five members, mostly residents of the southern part of the state.

The program will consist of an address by the president and discussions concerning matters in general pertaining to the legal profession.

Papers will be read by the following: C. E. Kimbrough on "Abstracting Titles"; E. J. Graham, of this city, on "Civil Rights"; and H. J. Capehart on "The Lawyer's Place in Reconstruction." There will be a banquet in the evening at the Palace hotel.

Attorney Graham, being the only colored attorney residing in this part of the state, will be the only Pan Pan Handle representative at the meeting.

Law in Georgia

The Atlanta Independent 4-12-19

Atlanta, Ga., April 11—With offices already opened in the Negro Odd Fellow Building, Estelle A. Henderson, proposes to be the first Negro Woman to practice law in Georgia. Already admitted to the bar in Alabama, Attorney Henderson states that she will soon be admitted to practice here. She is already a member of the faculty of Morris Brown College.

REPORT [illegible]
JULY 10, 1919

Four Forgery Charges Against Negro Lawyer

E. J. Roseborough, a negro attorney, was arraigned in the district court Wednesday on four charges of forgery and uttering, growing out of transactions at a local bank a year ago. His case was set for trial July 18.

E. J. Whittington, charged with larceny from the person, also was arraigned, his case being set for July 24.

JUDGE ALLEN TO AID IN NEGRO'S DEFENSE

The Montgomery Advertiser 7-13-19

(Special to The Advertiser.)

ANNISTON, ALA., Jan. 12.—Judge Basil M. Allen of Birmingham, will assist Charles D. Kline, of Anniston, in the defense of the negro sergeant, Edgar Caldwell when his trial is held on the charge of murdering Cecil Linton, a street car conductor in this city. The trial is set for January 17 at a special term of circuit court. Attorney Kline announced today that Judge Allen had been secured to assit him in the negro's defense.

Noted Attorney Advocate Locates in Cleveland

8-16-19

Major A. E. Patterson, who served as Judge Advocate in the 92nd Division, in France, and who was one of the three Colored men who arose to the rank of major, is in the city, accompanied by Mrs. Patterson. Ever since Major Patterson's return from France he has been engaged in defending the 23 Colored soldiers who were sentenced to death at Camp Grant, and later granted a new trial. The Major who was a practicing attorney in Chicago before entering the army, succeeded in getting several of the soldiers acquitted, and feels confident that when the case is finally reviewed the remaining will escape the gallows. Although he put in eight months defending these Colored soldiers, he gave his services free. As he will be in Cleveland, he has been asked to be one of the speakers at the Emancipation Celebration of the Cleveland Association of Colored Men at Puritas Springs. Many friends have suggested to Major Patterson that he ought to remain in Cleveland, and hang out his shingle here as a lawyer. He was the only Colored Judge Advocate in the army.

A Man of Deeds and Courage

J. COODY JOHNSON—Millionaire

By CLAUDE A. BARNETT

The Chicago Defender 1-25-19

Wewoka, Okla., Jan. 24.—Everybody takes their hats off to a man of deeds and courage. He somehow runs in the blood to do this sort of thing when one comes into the presence of a man of character and accomplishment. I did it instinctively whenever I met J. Coody Johnson, the "Black Panther," as they call him, of Wewoka, Okla. His is an impressive figure. Big of frame, ample of girth, he is also large in achievement. One cannot visit the Sooner state without hearing something of this remarkable person, the most outstanding character in the entire state.

Native of the State

J. C. Johnson

Not the least interesting feature of Mr. Johnson's history is the fact that he is a native of Oklahoma. But the closer you get to the men and women who are making its history the more you become impressed with the vigor and insistence which is going to give Oklahoma a high place finally among the more progressive states in our union.

Mr. Johnson is one of Oklahoma's most prosperous business men and this statement is no bigger than the usual facts in the case. He is one of the principal stockholders of the Black Panther Oil and Gas company, a million dollar corporation. He is the only Colored man who has actually gotten in on the producing end of the oil industry and made a success, and is likewise the only Colored man in the company for which he is chief attorney.

Even in this state, where dozens of men worth from $75,000 to $100,000 can be pointed out, to talk of a million requires sober reflection. But J. Coody will come nearer showing actual assets of that size than any man in the country.

King of Wewoka

He rules Wewoka, his home town, like an uncrowned king. It's a bright, bustling little city, with the Colored people right in the middle of the bustle. Right on the main street of the town, close up to the railroad station, its center, are to be found the following business establishments: Two groceries, two drug stores, a very excellent woman's wear store, a garage and the Black Panther hotel. There are six physicians, a dentist and a lawyer with only about 1,100 Race people in the town. Mr. Johnson is a director in the largest bank and owns some of the best buildings in town.

His father before him was a man of consequence in the state. The elder Johnson had been brought a slave by the Creek Indians from the state of Alabama, at the time when the Indian Territory had been set aside for the aborigines by the national government. He was intelligent and became an adept in the language of the Indians and thus was used by them in all their more important conferences with the government at Washington. The son appears to have inherited the fine abilities of his father, speaking several different languages.

Grew Up With the Country

Accompanying his father to Washington at an early age, J. Coody became a protege of the late Senator Ingalls and a playmate of his sons. He went to Lincoln university, Pennsylvania. Coming back to Oklahoma, a young man with no particular outlook in front of him, he started out to carve his way. He rejoined his tribe, became a member of the Creek legislature, studied law in the office of the United States circuit judge, then at Little Rock, Ark., was admitted to the bar and immediately began to make his influence felt throughout the state. The name Black Panther was given him by his tribe, the Creeks.

Palatial Country Home

I was given a rare treat upon the occasion of a visit to Mr. Johnson's palatial country home which he maintains in addition to the luxurious bungalow where he lives in Wewoka. Mr Johnson is married, his wife being one of the prominent women of the community. Some 2,600 acres comprise his holdings, 1,800 of which are in one piece amid the rich bottom land of Seminole county.

Some 70 tenants and employes keep everything spick and span and by scientific farming turn out some bumper crops. There is even a church and a well equipped school house on the farm.

Mr. Johnson has little time to enjoy his country home, for being a lawyer and identified with a multitude of business interests, his office is thronged constantly with visitors. He did find time, however, to do war work, engaging in Red Cross activities and being commissioned head of the Wewoka Home Guards by the governor of the state. He is president of the Oklahoma State Fair, which held its last exhibition at Boley. A thorough Race man, a hale fellow well met who is greeted and saluted by everyone as he rides along the road, Mr. Johnson has achieved much in life and won a position of which any man might be proud. After all it's not Attorney J. Coody Johnson, man of wealth, whom the people greet; it's just plain Coody the man.

Rapid Progress Of Johnson

The Kansas City Call 1-17-19

By Associated Negro Press

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 29.—The first $100,000 Y. M. C. A. ever erected in the United States is the one at Washington, D. C. To this institution Julius Rosenwald gave his first $25,000 towards Colored Y. M. C. A. buildings, to which he has since given a similar amount to more than a dozen institutions. The aggressive young secretary who was called from the Y. M. C. A. in Buxton, Ia., to raise this fund and finally become secretary of

he building was Lewis E. Johnson, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio.

A few years later this aggressive young man finished the law course in Howard University, and came to Chicago to practice. He became a lieutenant in the Eighth Illinois regiment, saw service on the Mexican border, and was made a Captain in the famous 370th (Old 8th Ill.) headquarters company, probably the only member of the race holding such a position. He was made judge advocate by personal direction of General Pershing, was in several engagements at the front, and was cited for bravery in one of the important engagements.

On his return to this country he was appointed the chief trial lawyer in the case of the fourteen Colored soldiers condemned to death for alleged attempt to assault a white woman. The new trial was ordered by President Wilson, personally, and resulted in six of the men being acquitted through Capt. Johnson's untiring efforts, and it is expected that others will be released when the case is reviewed by the Advocate General.

Captain Johnson was given an honorable discharge from the army last week, and is about to begin a tour of the United States delivering a message to the people everywhere, North, South, East and West, on his experiences and observations in France and America, and what the new day means in reconstruction and race adjustment. Captain Johnson is an eloquent, forcible and magnetic speaker. The tour is under the personal direction of N. D. Brascher, editor in chief of the Associated Negro Press, 312 S. Clark St., Chicago.

DENISON, WATKINS AND WHITE FORM LAW FIRM

Lawyers Franklin A. Denison, S. A. Watkins and James E. White have formed a partnership for the general practice of law under the firm name of Denison, Watkins & White, and will retain their present suite of rooms at 36 West Randolph street until larger quarters are prepared at the above number.

Col. F. A. Denison

While the attorneys have been associated for years, this gives their clients the benefit of their combined knowledge and experience.

Mr. Denison has served as inheritance tax appraiser assistant in the offices of the prosecuting attorney of Chicago, corporation counsel and Attorney General of Illinois. As assistant corporation counsel he had charge of the track elevation department, involving $3,000,000 damages filed aaginst the city, and a number of cases during his term were successfully prosecuted in the Supreme Court of the state.

He was Colonel of the 370th United States Infantry, A. E. F., the old 8th Illinois Regiment.

Mr. Watkins served as inheritance tax appraiser, assistant in the offices of the prosecuting attorney, corporation counsel and United States district attorney's office, which latter office he severed his connection with in order to give more time to the firm's business.

S. A. Watkins

As assistant corporation counsel he had charge of the admiralty department and had the honor of representing the City of Chicago in the federal courts in Chicago and the Supreme Court of the United States.

He is supreme attorney of the Knights of Pythias and has been successful in all litigations of the order. It is said he has appeared more often and been more successful before the Supreme Court of the United States than any lawyer of the Race.

Mr. White has the reputation of being one of the best civil lawyers in the state, without regard to race, and has to his credit several important cases won in the Supreme Court of the state. He and Mr. Watkins are counsel in the present Masonic litigation where right of name and use of emblems are involved. Mr. White is general counsel for the Railroad Men's Association.

Caldwell Watkins will join the office force as soon as commodious quarters are ready.

James E. White

Hugh Macbeth, negro attorney and a leader in efforts made by certain elements of the negro population to "clean up" the Central avenue district, was called to the witness stand in the Mayor Woodman bribe case trial yesterday afternoon when further redirect examination of Captain Murray resulted in an onslaught of objections by the defense which were sustained by Judge Willis

Macbeth was asked to reconnt his conversation with Mayor Woodman upon an occasion when he visited the Mayor in the interests of the "clean up" process. He testified as follows, the material being excerpts from the court transcript:

Q.—Now, go ahead and state your first conversation with the Mayor about Hackett.

A.—I told the Mayor that I had heard from a fellow—that this fellow Murray, whose liquor license was up before the police commission for revocation, that he, Murray, had been offered a large sum of money, about $3000, by a man by the name of General Royer, if he would tell to Royer or to Royer's detectives all that he knew about the system of money payments for protection in which Hackett was involved in the Central avenue negro district. The Mayor appeared very much surprised and informed me that he was under the impression that there were some people who were trying to ruin his administration and get the goods on him. He asked me what I knew about Hackett I told him all I knew about Hackett.

WASHVILLE TENNESSEAN
FEBRUARY 26, 1919

MAYFIELD ASKS FOR REINSTATEMENT TO BAR

R. L. Mayfield, negro lawyer, has filed a petition in the court of civil appeals asking the court to review and revoke a recent decree whereby an order reinstating Mayfield as a member of the bar had been cancelled.

The order reinstating Mayfield was entered on the minutes September 11, 1918. The ruling of the court that this order was made without jurisdiction and void leaves Mayfield under disbarment from practice.

Disbarred Attorney Seeks to Be Reinstated

Nashville, Tenn., March 14.—Declaring that he was disbarred from practice in the courts of Tennessee through prejudice, R. L. Mayfield, an attorney of this city, has filed with the Court of Civil Appeals, sitting at Nashville, application for rehearing. On Sept. 11 an order was handed down by the Court of Civil Appeals, then sitting at Knoxville, ordering the reinstatement of Mayfield to practice. This order was resisted on the ground that the decree was entered in Knoxville, and that the court there had no jurisdiction. The order reinstating Mayfield was revoked. He now asks that the decision permitting him to practice be made valid.

Nashville Court Orders R. L. Mayfield Disbarred

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 28.—Attorney R. L. Mayfield has been disbarred by the Court of Civil Appeals. Mayfield was disbarred several years ago on application of F. M. Garard (white), of the local bar. The disbarred attorney went to Knoxville and succeeded in having himself restored. When news was announced in this city, attorneys sought to have the decision of the Knoxville court reversed, and an order to this effect has been issued.

CITY'S CHIEF INFORMED OF CONDITIONS

CAL EXAMINER
APRIL 5, 1919

Court Refuses to Permit Reading of Confidential Report on Situation in Negro Section

MAJOR OR ATTORNEY LYNCH—WHICH?

THE ADMITTANCE of Major John R. Lynch to the bar of the state of Illinois is an important event, inasmuch as it proves what can be accomplished by an ambitious man of any age. Although his life has been active since boyhood yet he has found time to perfect himself in many lines, any one of which would have been a life work for the average person. To the younger generation here is a concrete example of the "I Will" spirit. Too many of our young men look upon the dark side of the picture of life and take it for granted that it is useless to perfect themselves along certain lines because of an apprehension that their racial identity will prevent the realization of their ambition. This is a mistake which has been verified in Major Lynch's case, or shall we say Attorney Lynch?

Negro Woman Will Ask for Admission to the Georgia Bar

With offices already opened in the Negro Odd Fellows Building, on Auburn avenue, Estelle A. Henderson proposes to be the first negro woman to practice law in Georgia. Already admitted to the bar in Alabama, Attorney Henderson states she has been informed that, after she has gone through the usual formalities, practice in the Georgia courts is open to her. She is a member of the faculty of Morris Brown college.

SYRACUSE LAWYER WAS FIRST NEGRO ADMITTED TO BAR

SYRACUSE N Y POST STANDARD
JULY 18, 1919

ONE of the first Negro lawyers to be admitted to the bar in the United States, George B. Vashon, formerly of Syracuse, was granted admission to practice in the criminal courts of Washington, D. C., fifty years ago today, according to The Syracuse Daily Standard of July 19, 1869.

Professor Vashon, as he was called because of a professorship held by him at Alleghany College, also practiced law in New York State and was a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court. He was connected with the Freedmen's Bureau before entering legal practice.

RACE LAWYER WINS UNUSUAL DISTINCTION

On last Tuesday, Judge Eubank, judge of the Circuit Court, of this county, appointed Robert Lee Brokenburr, one of the prominent young lawyers of this Bar, as special Judge, in his absence ot try cases for him. This court is always loaded down with work and its docket according lawyers who have business in the Circuit Court is the heaviest in many years.

The Circuit Court is a constitutional court and this makes its work very intricate and hard at times.

Judge Eubank was in need of a much needed rest and he called Mr. Brokenburr to his court to help him out. Old time lawyers who had business in the Circuit Court on Tuesday, and others who just happened in, said that Special Judge Brokenburr went at the work like an old timer and acquitted himself like he had been on the bench for years without even being thought of as a special Judge for the day. The docket for this particular day being very heavy.

Mr. Brokenburr is a native of (The Old Dominion) the State of Virginia, being educated at the celebrated Hampton School, of which the late Dr. Booker T. Washington first started on his road to fame. He finished his law education at the great Howard University, Washington, D. C., graduating with honor from its law school, coming to Indiana, some years later, and entering into the active practice of his chosen profession.

Mr. Brokenburr is at present an Assistant States attorney in charge of States forfeit bonds. He is als oassistant counsel to Mr. F. B. Ransom, General Counsel for the late Madame C. J. Walker's large estate and holdings, he also being one of the high class lawyers at this Bar, and known by this large estate and its interest throughout the United States. Mr. Ransom was designated by the Government during the great war as Assistant Food Administrator for this State, and helped to win the War.

PASSES VIRGINIA BAR EXAMINATION

(Special to The New York Age)

Petersburg, Va.—Among those successfully passing the State Bar examination held in Charlottesville, Va., last week is B. F. Harris of Petersburg. Young Mr. Harris is the son of Lawyer Alfred W. Harris and Mrs. Ira R. Harris, until recently of Ashton place, Dinwiddie County, but now of 806 Farmer street. Mr. Harris was a private student under his father until 1917, when he was called to the colors and saw service overseas with the famous Eighth Illinois as sergeant, Co. C. Upon his return to America he resumed his studies with the above mentioned result. The examinations were held at the University of Virginia, and of the five Negroes to apply he alone passed.

BOSTON LAWYER MAKES GOOD.

Col. Bourne's Growth of Practice Necessitates Larger and More Central Quarters.

There is no more striking instance of success coined on a basis of hard sterling merit than is instanced in the case of Col. John S. R. Bourne L. L. B. M. J. I. Col. Bourne has for some considerable time conducted his office in Cambridge where the growth of his practice has been steady and solidly substantial. Having far outgrown a suburban location he finds it necessary to remove his quarters to Boston proper. There are many factors entering into his success. Aside from a marked degree of skill which he brings to his profession his activities have been

COLORED LAWYERS MEET

HUNTINGTON, W. Va.—The Negro Bar Association of West Virginia held its state meeting here. A number of interesting papers were read. The meeting closed with a banquet.